

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 EB-07 AID-05 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 L-03 DLOS-03 OES-03 CU-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /058 W

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R 302222Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5754

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, EFIS, BEXP, EC

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GOE SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES

REF: A) QUITO 3661

B) QUITO 1201

C) GUAYAQUIL 911

1. SUMMARY: IN MAY 29 MEETING WITH COMMATT AND ADCM, GOE SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS TO SOLVE FISHERIES PROBLEM. HE ALSO SAID THAT STARKIST HAD INVITED HEAD OF GOE STATE FISHERIES CORPORATION (EPNA) TO SAN DIEGO FOR DISCUSSIONS OF ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MATTERS ALTHOUGH GOE AS YET UNDECIDED ON RESPONSE. FINALLY, SUBSECRETARY MADE STRONG PITCH FOR BIDS BY US FIRMS ON RECENT GOE TENDER FOR FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL (REF A), STATING THAT SUCCESSFUL

US BID WOULD BE FIRST STEP IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US ON FISHERIES MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. ADCM AND COMMATT CALLED ON GOE SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES, NAVY CAPTIAN ETHIEL RODRIGUEZ, AFTERNOON OF MAY 29 TO REVIEW VARIOUS PENDING MATTERS (STATUS OF FISHING COMPLEX, MINISTRY'S RESPONSE TO PROPOSED IV GRANTS
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FOR A COUPLE OF FISHERIES TECHNICIANS, FETC.). CONVER-

SATION, WHICH LASTED MORE THAN ONE HOUR, WAS UNUSUALLY CORDIAL AND MOST RELAXED WE CAN RECALL HAVING WITH RODRIGUEZ SINCE HE ASSUMED PRESENT POSITION. WHILE RODRIGUEZ DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CONFIRM EPNA DIRECTOR CHACON'S REMARKS CONCERNING SOFTENING GOE ATTITUDES ON RESOLUTION OF FISHERIES DISPUTE (REF C), HIS TONE WAS CONCILIATORY AND CONSISTENT WITH CHACON'S DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT GOE THINKING.

3. AMONG SPECIFIC POINTS OF INTEREST MADE BY RODRIGUEZ WAS HIS STATEMENT THAT GOE ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE FISHERIES PROBLEM. HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER INCIDENTS SINCE OUR DIFFERENCES COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS. HE SAID THAT MINISTRY HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INVITATION FROM STARKIST TO SEND EPNA DIRECTOR TO SAN DIEGO FOR CONVERSATIONS ON ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MATTERS. (THIS STARKIST INITIATIVE IS FOLLOW-QP TO FEBRUARY 18 CONVERSATION IN QUITO BETWEEN STARKIST REP AND MINNAT RESOURCES AT WHICH RODRIGUEZ AND ADCM WERE ALSO PRESENT. SEE REF B.) RODRIGUEZ SAID MINISTRY HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON REPLY TO STARKIST INVITATION, IMPLYING THAT TIMING MAY STILL BE TOO CLOSE TO CRISIS OF LAST JANUARY-MARCH; BUT HE DID NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL ISITIVE RESPONSE. ADCM URGED SUBSECRETARY GO GIVE INVITATION FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

4. ON PROPOSED US LEADER GRANTS FOR TWO FISHERIES OFFICIALS, RODRIGUEZ SHOWED ADCM FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO OUR INVATION WHICH MINISTER HAD JUST SENT TO CHARGE' STATING THAT MINISTRY PLANNED TO DESIGNATE TWO FISHERIES OFFICIALS TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF OUR IV PROGRAM. SUB-SECRETARY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE MEMORIES OF RECENT SEIZURES WERE STILL SO FRESH, SUBSECRETARY HIMSELF WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO GO.

5. FINALLY, RODRIGUEZ MENTIONED RECENT GOE TENDER FOR FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL (REF A) AND EXPRESSING STRONG HOPE THAT US FIRMS WOULD BID. HE SAID GOE EXPECTED TO SPEND ABOUT \$1 MILLION ON THE BOAT AND THAT FOR US FIRM TO WIN THE BID WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT FIRST STEP IN
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BUILDING CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US ON FISHERIES MATTERS. HE WAS VERY EMPHATIC ON THIS POINT AND WE ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD MAKE HIS PERSONAL INTEREST KNOWN TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY TENOR OF THIS CONVERATION AND DEWITT'S MEETING WITH CHACON (REF C), ALTHOUGH WE ARE OF COURSE UNDER

NO ILLUSIONS THAT BASIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE
US ARE IN ANY WAY CHANGED. SINCE RODRIGUEZ MADE SUCH
A POINT OF GOE INTEREST IN US FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL,
WE DO HOWEVER BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN
PROMOTING POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE ON BILATERAL FISHERIES
MATTERS FOR STATE AND COMMERCE TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY
IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE US BIDS.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.
HEMENWAY

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